**Development of Comprehension (Understanding)**

**Developmental Norm Chart (18 months – 5 years of age)**

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| **Age** | **Would usually….** | **I should be concerned if…** | **Don’t worry if….** |
| **18 months – 1;11** | * **Understand basic everyday instructions e.g. Where is your shoe? or Show me your nose**
* **Knows and turns when own name is called**
 | * **Child struggles to follow basic everyday instructions**
* **Does not recognise or turn when own name is called**
 | * **Child does not understand complex instructions**
* **Does not know colours/numbers**
* **Cannot respond to questions**
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| **2;00 – 2;05** | * **Understands single words and most simple two word level commands (e.g. Where’s daddy’s nose?)**
* **Understands questions such as what /where/who**
* **Understands basic concepts such as big/little**
 | * **Does not respond to what /where questions (their responses can be verbal or non verbal, e.g. pointing)**
* **Understanding not at a two word level.**
 | * **Child struggles to follow some longer complex instructions with abstract concepts**
* **Does not know their colours /numbers**
* **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary**
* **Cannot respond to why questions**
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| **2;06 – 2;11** | * **Understand more complex instructions (2-3 word level)**
* **Follows routines well**
* **Shows an understanding of words such as “wet” “dry” “big” “little”**
* **Understands simple stories**
* **Listens with interest when spoken to**
 | * **Vague look when asked a simple question**
* **Always follows what others are doing**
* **Shows little interest in what is happening around them**
* **Responses are not what you would expect e.g. “Where’s mummy?” child responds “Jack”**
 | * **Child struggles to follow some longer complex instructions**
* **Does not know their colours/numbers**
* **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary**
* **Cannot respond to why questions**
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| **3;00 – 3;05** | * **Begins to understand the word “not”**
* **Can start to identify objects in categories (e.g. can you find me the animals)**
* **Understands simple stories**
 | * **Any of the above and/or**
* **Child does not understand a simple story**
* **Appears to only understand if shown what you mean with pictures /gestures**
* **Finds it difficult to cope with change**
* **You need to repeat yourself a lot**
* **You need to break instructions down to help them understand**
 | * **Does not know their colours/numbers**
* **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary**
* **Cannot respond to why questions**
* **Child is unable to easily follow an adult conversation but does try**
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| **3;06 – 3;11** | * **Answers questions such as “how did you get here”**
* **Understands opposites**
* **Beginning to understand the concept of time**
* **Follows requests of several parts (e.g. ‘can you give the car to mummy and the cup to daddy’)**
 | * **Any of the above**
* **Only seems to understand naming words**
* **Finding it difficult to interact with peers; play tends to be more physical than imaginative**
 | * **Does not know their colours/numbers**
* **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary**
* **Cannot respond to why questions**
* **Child is unable to easily follow an adult conversation but does try**
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| **4;00 – 5;00** | * **Follows adult conversation**
* **Understands many time concepts (before, after, yesterday, tomorrow)**
* **Follows conversations which may include the past or future**
 | * **Any of the above**
* **Child talks in long sentences but it doesn’t seem related to the topic of conversation**
 | * **Does not know their colours/numbers**
* **If they do not understand more complex vocabulary**
* **Cannot respond to why questions**
* **Child is unable to easily follow an adult conversation but does try**
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